Cultivating Engagement Through Student-Centered Learning in a High School Media Art Class

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Cultivating Engagement Through Student-Centered Learning in a High School Media Arts Class

Dominican University of California, School of Education & Counseling Psychology

By Dyane Goldman

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Introduction

• **Research Question**
What can be done to engage and motivate high school students in a required Media Arts course

• **Traditional vs Student-Centered**
Student-Centered: An approach to education allowing for independence and self-direction

• **Montessori**

• **Dewey**
Pioneers in the area of a student-centered education model
Review of The Literature

Review of the literature supports student-centered learning environments

- Impact of Learner-Centered Classrooms
  Motivation and interest for high school student

- Transforming the Classroom Through Choice
  Students and teachers working together in cooperation

- Shifting Roles of Students
  From passive consumers of content to creators of content
The Study

Three Classes Choose Student-Centered
One class choose traditional
The impact, process and implementation of the study

Surveys showed
Students appreciation for autonomy and freedom
Student reflections:
“I felt many people in the classroom were more determined…I felt creative” and another wrote; “I certainly felt more motivated to do my project”.

Qualitative Approach
Direct observation, unstructured interviews, written reflections and surveys

Teacher Action Research (TAR)
The purpose for selecting this approach; is to allow for date collection on student engagement, in a structured and consistent environment over time.
Findings & Conclusions

Observations
Students working, engaged, interested

Critical Eye - Instructional Coach
Observing before and during implementation of student-centered unit suggestions for future implementation

Limitations/Gaps in the Research
Limited to number of subjects and site of study

Conclusions and Significance
Positive improvement of student outcomes - student motivation - self-regulation
Possible use for helping with teacher burnout
Any Questions?